

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 OMB-01 MMO-01

SCCT-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /085 W
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O R 141020Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8727

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5602

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BG

SUBJ: TROUBLE IN BANGLADESH: SECUIRITY SITUATION FAR FROM QUIET

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS SINCE LAST EVENING
(NOVEMBER 13) OF TROUBLES ELSEWHERE IN BANGLADESH
WHICH REVEAL THE STILL INCOMPLETE DISCIPLINE OF THE
MILITARY. ACCOUNTS REACHING US FROM RANGPUR GIVE
ADDED CREDENCE TO REPORTS THAT JAWANS WERE (AND
POSSIBLY STILL ARE) OUT OF CONTROL, AND THAT THEY
MAY ALSO BE LOOTING HOUSES. THE TROUBLE IN RANGPUR
APPEARS TO HAVE BEGUN ON NOVEMBER 10, RATHER THAN ON
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NOVMEBER 7, AS SOME STORIES SUGGESTED. WE ARE TRYING TO

OBTAIN A MORE CERTAIN FIX ON THE RANGPUR SITUATION.

2. FROM CHITTAGONG WE LEARN THAT SHORTLY BEFORE NOON YESTERDAY FIGHTING BROKE OUT AT THE NAVAL BASE THERE. DETAILS ARE STILL SPARSE BUT THE REPORT APPEARS TO HAVE SUBSTANCE; CONTACTS WITH CHITTAGONIANS CONFIRM SOME SORT OF TROUBLE AND THE FACT OF FIRING. SPECULATION SUGGESTS THAT THE BASE COMMANDER, COMMANDER RAUF, IMPLICATED IN THE AGARTALA CONSPIRACY, MAY BE PAYING FOR HIS ASSOCIATION WITH SHEIKH MUJIB AND, AS IT IS POPULARLY BELIEVED, BE EXTENSION WITH THE INDIANS. ANOTHER REPORT GIVES A MORE PEDESTRIAN REASON FOR THE TROUBLE: THE SAILORS HEARD THAT THE JAWANS IN DACCA HAVE RECIEVED A PAY RAISE AND THEY ARE DEMANDING AN INCREASE. WHATEVER THE REASON IS, THIS NEW LOSS OF DISCIPLINE IN THE NAVY ADDS TO THE PREVAILING ANXIETY.

3. BOTH OF THESE EVENTS ARE TROUBLING, RANGPUR BECAUSE IT DEMONSTRATES THE DEPTH OF INDISCIPLINE IN THE ARMY AND CHITTAGONG BECAUSE OF THE KEY IMPORTANCE OF THE PORT. MOREOVER, BOTH INCIDENTS, IF CONFIRMED, WEAKEN THE REPUTATIONS OF DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATORS GENERAL ZIAUR RAHMAN AND COMMODORE MOSHARRAF HOSSAIN KHAN. WITH THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION PRESENTLY ALL THAT BANGLADESH HAS BY WAY OF A GOVERNING AUTHORITY, ANYTHING WHICH UNDERMINES ITS STANDING IS A NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENT.

BOSTER

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